3. The Extra Departmental System (now called Gramin Dak Sevaks) has its origins prior to independence and is a practical and viable method of extending basic postal facilities to the rural areas where, due to inadequate workload, full-fledged departmental post offices are not feasible. The GDSs are required to have an alternate source of livelihood, as they are required to work only for a specified period not exceeding five hours depending on workload.

4. In view of the above facts, there is no proposal at present to modify their status or grant them pension or trade union facilities. Provisions are already available for 75% recruitment to Group 'D' level posts and 50% of postmen's posts in the Department to be made from among the GDSs so that they have an opportunity to better their prospects and enter regular government service.

Basic infrastructure for tiny sector in Tamil Nadu

2336. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the tiny sector industrial units under the integrated infrastructure development scheme for creation of basic infrastructure in cluster basis in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the scheme is being extended to other parts of the State where it is not in operation now;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Under the Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme, five IID Centres located in the districts of Madurai, Coimbatore, Kanchipuram, Chenngai MGR and Thiruvellore in the State of Tamil Nadu have been sanctioned. These are at various stages of implementation except the IID Centre at Coimbatore where the developmental work is yet to commence. In all, 28 tiny and 79 small scale units have been established in these IID Centres.

(b) and (c) The IID Centres are sanctioned on the basis of the proposals received from the State Governments and no further proposal

for setting up IID Centre have been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu.

(d) Does not arise..

Comparative study of Khadi and Village Industries

2337. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out a detailed comparative study of the Khadi and Village Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of the persons engaged in Khadi and Village Industries in each State; and

(d) what are their earnings per day, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission, through its Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) has conducted an evaluation of Khadi and Village Industries. The report was published in March, 2001. The PEO undertook the evaluation of the performance, suitability and effectiveness of the implementation mechanism and impact of the KVI programmes.

(b) A brief note on the salient features of this evaluation report is enclosed herewith Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) and (d) State-wise details of persons engaged in KVI sector during 2000-01, is given at Statement-II. (*See* below) Most Khadi workers are employed part time and that too for a few days in a year. Their average daily earnings based on quantity produced varies from Rs. 22/- to Rs. 32/-. The report on the evaluation study of Khadi and Village Industries programme conducted by the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO), Planning Commission, indicated that in case of village industries, units, a full time employed worker earns Rs. 4323/- per annum.

At present village industries programme is implemented through the Rural Employment Generation Programme based on bankable projects. The wage content of each project may vary from industry to industry and also State to State. As such, such details are not maintained centrally.